

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ORM-02 SCA-01
VO-03 EB-08 TRSE-00 /102 W
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R 292150Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4601
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3551

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINT, CI, CA, VE
SUBJECT: CHILEANS FLEEING REPRESSION BECOMING SCARCE

1. WE HAVE REPORTED THAT THE POOL OF CHILEANS QUALIFIED FOR THE US PAROLE PROGRAM IS DRYING UP. SIMILARLY THE CANADIANS, WHO HANDLE THEIR "OPPRESSED MINORITY" PROGRAM DIRECTLY (RATHER THAN RELYING UPON ICEM TO PROCESS CANDIDATES), TELL US THAT MOST CURRENT APPLICANTS BASE THEIR CLAIM FOR RESETTLEMENT IN CANADA ON HAVING LOST WORK BECAUSE OF POLITICAL BELIEFS. AS RECENTLY AS EIGHT MONTHS AGO MOST APPLICANTS ALLEGED THAT THEY FEARED REPRESSION AT THE HANDS OF CHILEAN SECURITY AGENCIES. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY JUDGES THAT MOST APPLICANTS NOW BASICALLY ARE ECONOMICALLY MOTIVATED, AND IS CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RECOMMEND TO OTTAWA THAT THE SPECIAL PROGRAM BE ENDED.

2. IN THE SAME VEIN, THE LOCAL ICEM REPRESENTATIVE (KOZAK) TOLD US THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME HE CAN BEGIN TO SEE AN END TO ICEM'S POLITICAL RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN CHILE -- PERHAPS WITHIN A FEW MONTHS IF THE GOC WILL REVERSE ITS INITIAL REFUSAL TO

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COMMUTE THE SENTENCES OF 90 PEOPLE ALREADY HOLDING VISAS. (THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE ICRC MAY CLOSE ITS SANTIAGO OFFICE BY YEAR'S END -- SANTIAGO 3019). KOZAK ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE VISIT ICEM EACH MORNING TRYING TO QUALIFY FOR A SPECIAL VENEZUELAN SKILLED MIGRANT PROGRAM. ABOUT 35 PRINCIPALS ALREADY HAVE TRAVELED AND 1200 MORE ARE BEING PROCESSED FOR THIS UNADVERTISED PROGRAM BEGUN EARLY THIS YEAR.

3. COMMENT: THE CANADIAN OBSERVATION IS A PARTICULARLY USEFUL CROSS CHECK ON THE PREVAILING IMPRESSION THAT SECURITY AGENCIES SUCH AS THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA) HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY ENDED THEIR MOST EGREGIOUS ABUSES. ICEM'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE VENEZUELAN PROGRAM ALSO TENDS TO CONFIRM HEAVY PRESSURES TO EMIGRATE BECAUSE OF POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

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Message Attributes

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